THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

PUBLISHED BY
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2006
VOL. 77, NO. 3

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY

PUBLISHED BY

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The T.O.S. is a non-profit, educational, scientific, and conservation organization.

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(Revised December 2006)

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Tennessee Ornithological Society, Box 22682, Memphis, TN 38122

Printed by: Russell Printing Options, 1800 Grand Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916

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— ISSN 0026-3575575

THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee.
Issued in March, June, September, and December.

VOL. 77 September 2006 NO. 3

The Migrant 77 (3): 89-94, 2006.

NOTES ON LEAST BITTERNS NESTING AT STANDIFER GAP MARSH, HAMILTON COUNTY

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Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) is a rare to locally common summer resident in Tennessee (Nicholson 1997). The first reported nesting was probably about 1919 at Reelfoot Lake. It has been regularly reported from Reelfoot Lake since then, and the population there may well have been the largest in the southern United States (Mengel 1965). By 1968 breeding had been confirmed in 16 counties across Tennessee, including Amnicola Marsh in Hamilton County. Because of concern over apparently declining numbers and the loss of suitable wetland habitat, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Administration has listed the Least Bittern as In Need of Management (TDEC 2004). This paper reports observations of nesting Least Bitterns (Figure 1) at Standifer Gap Marsh in Hamilton County.

Standifer Gap Marsh is located in northeast Chattanooga, Tennessee on Standifer Gap Road, about 1.8 km (1.1 mi) west of Lee Highway, US 64. The marsh is immediately west of and now owned by Woodlawn Park Baptist Church. To the north are Norfolk & Southern Railroad tracks on a dirt/rock/gravel structure resembling a dike about five meters high. North of the tracks is an area of small manufacturing businesses. A creek that flows through that area and through culverts under the tracks supplies all of the water for the marsh other than rainfall and run-off. To the east are athletic fields, parking lots, lawns and a large church still under construction. Further east is a gated subdivision. The marsh area is bounded on the south by Standifer Gap Road. Across the road is a farm, a creek which is below the level of the marsh, and a golf course. The marsh is bounded on the west by a wooded ridge. Barely visible from the marsh are a few scattered houses on wooded lots.

This marsh is roughly rectangular, about 1 km (0.6 mi) north to south and 500 m (0.3 mi) east to west, an area of about 50 ha (120 acres). The main pond has

about 4 to 8 ha (10 to 20 acres) of open water, most of it 3 to 6 dm (1 to 2 ft) deep with a fairly firm and level substrate, surrounded mostly by cattails and other emergent vegetation. A beaver *(Castor canadensis)* dam on the west side of the main pond provides the standing water for the pond and wet areas. According to neighbors, the pond was here from about 1960 to 1980, when it dried up and the area was used for crops or pasture; wooden fences still cross the pond. About 1995 the water backed up again, probably because the beaver family rebuilt the dam.

On 14 April 2002 David and Gloria Patterson ("we" throughout this report) joined a group of area birders that waded and flushed three Virginia Rails (*Rallus limicola*), 15 Sora (*Porzana carolina*) and five American Bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). We began visiting the marsh once or twice a week, interested in the variety of wetland birds, mammals, reptiles and plants. In May and June 2002 and 2003 we would see about one Least Bittern per hour. In 2003 we began wading, looking for all kinds of birds and nests, and found two Least Bitterns too young to fly, confirming breeding at the marsh.

During spring and summer from 2004 to 2006 we visited the marsh two to three times most weeks, usually for about three hours, beginning about an hour after sunrise. It would require at least ten hours to wade around all suitable habitat. We divided our time between looking for new nests and checking ones we had already located (Table 1). We also looked for nests of other species. A number of Tennessee birders wished to see Least Bittern and Virginia Rail nests, and we spent about ten days escorting birders to some of the nests. In 2005 we found the first Least Bittern nest on 19 April and the last two on 26 June; between those dates we waded 22 days, found no nests on nine days, one nest each day on 11 days, three nests 27 May, and five nests on 2 June.

Table 1. Dates and counts of Least Bittern nests, eggs, and young observed from 2004 to 2006 at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton County, Tennessee.

	2004	2005	2006
First nest found	21 June	19 April	23 April
Last young observed	5 August	20 July	21 July
Active Nests	5	16	18
Total Eggs Observed	22	74	72
Total Young Observed*	17	55	27
New Nests Never Used	5	4	10
Old Nests	3	2	.
Total Nests	13	22	28

* includes young hatched from eggs in above line

All but one of the nests were built in and of cattails (*Typha* sp). The typical nest was located about 0.6 to 1.2 m (2 - 4 ft) from open water. The adults flew directly to the nests without flying higher than the tops of the cattails. The nest bowls were about 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 in) diameter and 2.5 cm (1 in) deep, about 30 to 60 cm (12 to 18 in) above water. One bowl was about 60 cm (24 in) above water, and one was about 75 cm (30 in). All except the very early nests, when the cattails are not tall enough, had canopies constructed by bending cattails over the tops, about 30 cm (12 in) above the bowls. The canopies may provide shade and concealment from avian predators. Some of the unused nests were not well built, perhaps practice nests. In some well built nests we never observed eggs or young.

One exceptional nest was built of rushes in an exposed clump of rushes, highly visible, and with the bowl close to the water. It resembled a Virginia Rail nest, and it was distant from all of the others, in an area favored by Virginia Rails. The five eggs were lightly spotted, as are Virginia Rail eggs. In the Least Bittern nests we have seen at the marsh, usually just the first egg in a clutch is spotted. After several days we saw Least Bitterns incubating the eggs, confirming the identity of the nest.

Given the number of breeding pairs, at least 10 and probably 15 or more, courtship calls seemed rather uncommon. We had no record of more than about three calling birds any one day, and we mostly heard them from mid-May to early June. The courtship song is soft and dove-like. The alarm note, when nest or young are threatened, is a series of harsh squawks sounding more heron-like. Adults and young may make a loud hissing sound when approached closely. We seldom visited late evenings or very early mornings, and we have no record of Least Bittern sounds other than mid-morning.

The number of eggs ranged from 3 to 5 with the exception of one new nest that had no eggs, then one egg, then none, the egg apparently taken by a predator, and one late nest that had one newly hatched sickly young which later died. Nineteen nests had five eggs each, 11 had four eggs, and 10 had three eggs. A new nest may sit empty for a week or more before the first egg is laid, and then eggs usually appear one each day.

Incubation usually lasted 13 to 18 days from last egg to first hatch; one early pair incubated from 19 May to 9 June, an incubation of 21 days. Both sexes incubate. One male, perhaps widowed, apparently did all the incubating and feeding and successfully reared four chicks. At nearly every nest, one male and one female incubated and guarded. It appears that a pair may raise at least two broods. A second nest will usually be within 10 to 20 feet of the first, built as soon as or even before the first chicks leave. We observed some chicks leaving the nest and climbing among the cattails one to two days after hatching, but they returned to the nest. Most remained in or at the nest up to a week or more.

The Least Bitterns we observed had one of two distinct behavior patterns when we approached their nests. Most incubating adults quietly left the nest and slipped away; their young tended to jump out of the nest and hide when approached. The other adults remained on the nest threatening and squawking and

Figure 1. Male Least Bittern at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Figure 2. Female Least Bittern in threat posture on nest.

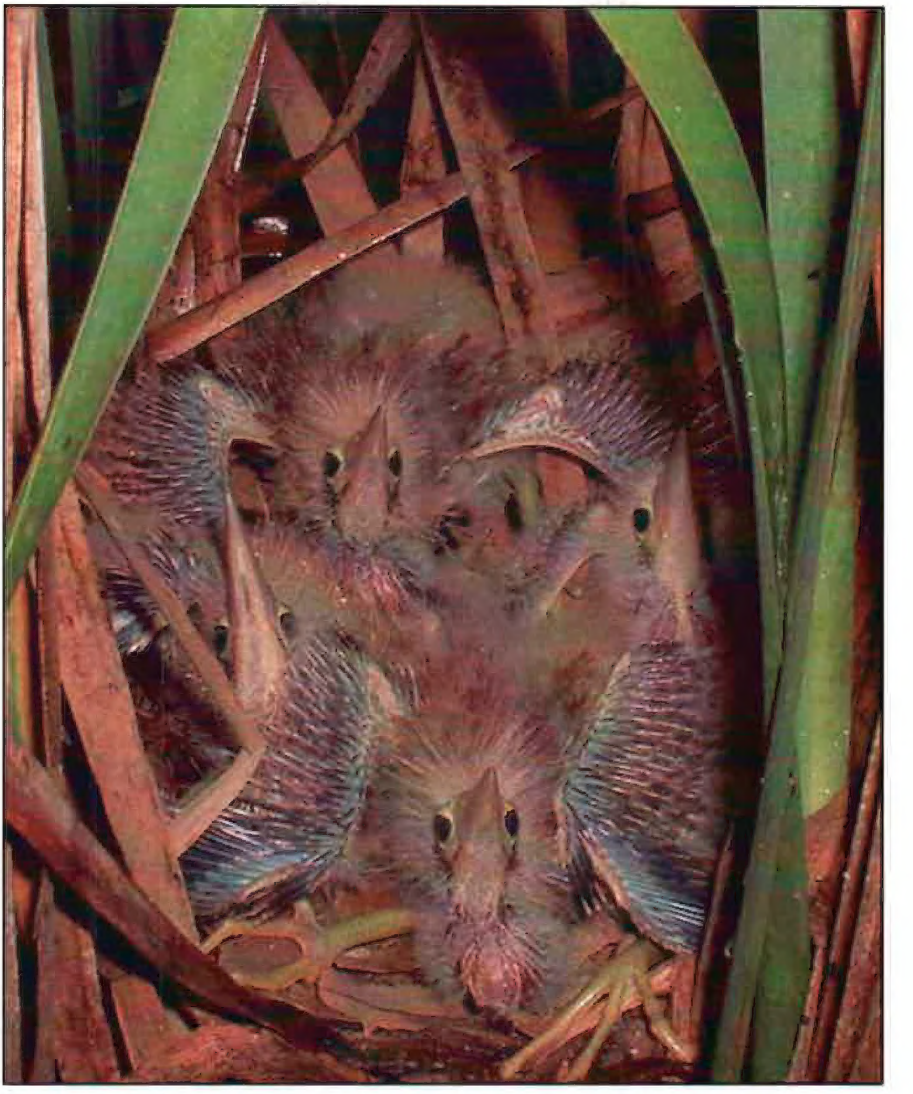

Figure 3. Young Least Bitterns demonstrating the same threat posture as their parents.

could almost be touched (Figure 2); their young tended to behave the same way (Figure 3), and could easily have been touched. Away from the nest the young birds are usually very difficult to find.

Other nests or young in the marsh area during 2004 to 2006 included: Green Heron (*Butrides virescens*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) [found during TOS Spring meeting field trip 1 May 2004], Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), Virginia Rail (about 12 nests), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), Willow

Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) 2004 and 2005, Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) 120+ nests in 2005, and Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*).

There appears to be only one beaver lodge in the marsh, a large one in deep water about 10 m from the dam. The beaver population may be increasing; in 2006 they began building smaller dams near the railroad tracks. These dams are of concern to the manufacturers north of the tracks because of potential flooding and to the church because of liability issues. At the request of the church, the county removed the dams. For several weeks the crew would remove the dams during the day and the beavers would rebuild them at night.

There seem to be 20 to 30 muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) mounds in the marsh most of the time. Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) feed and rest in the wet grass area about 40 m south of the main pond. There are a few raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) and some rats and mice and shrews, including one shrew-like mammal that takes over Red-winged Blackbird nests for its own resting or nesting use. We have examined about 10 of these and have never found anything except one adult which jumps into the water and disappears.

We seldom see snakes; herpetologists from the Tennessee Aquarium say there are no poisonous snakes in the marsh and wade bare-legged. There are many turtles, including a few snapping turtles. Frogs are abundant; we frequently see Green Treefrogs (*Hyla cinerea*) on cattails near the Least Bittern nests.

Standifer Gap Marsh is a small but very important wetland. In addition to having one of the largest breeding colonies of Least Bitterns in the state, it also seems to be the only location with year-round Virginia Rails. It is well worth preserving. Fortunately the owners seem to recognize and appreciate its value and have taken actions to protect it, such as closing off the road through the marsh with a locked gate. Birders are welcome at the marsh. There has been some fishing, but apparently very little or none in 2006. Hunters and shooters are not welcome, but empty shotgun shell casings are evidence they have been there. Elementary school children come on field trips occasionally, sometimes with canoes or waders. Area birders visited the area infrequently until about 2002, but now it is known as a hot spot for waterbirds and is visited regularly.

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The Migrant 77 (3): 95-96, 2006

WHOOPING CRANES AT HATCHIE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, HAYWOOD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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Historically, there was an eastern migratory flock of Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*), but the last of those birds died early in the 1900s. The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) was founded in the late 1990s to oversee the reestablishment of the eastern flock. Whooping Crane eggs are hatched at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. The chicks are then relocated to the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin where they are trained by Operation Migration, a member of WCEP, to follow ultralight aircraft. The ultralights then help them learn their migration path during their first migratory flight south to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. The migratory route passes through Tennessee and often includes a stopover at Hiwassee National Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County. The first "class" of cranes was led south in 2001.

Each year, after their initial ultralight-led migration south, the cranes are on their own. Each is identified by a number made up of their class year and birth order (i.e., Number 303 translates to third class, third in birth order.) The goal of WCEP is to establish an eastern flock of roughly 150 cranes. By the spring of 2006 the eastern Whooping Crane flock contained 64 individuals. Pair bonds are already starting to form and nesting is occurring in Wisconsin. These and future birds will teach their offspring the migration flyway.

Two Whooping Cranes from the eastern flock were observed on the Hillville Unit of the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge (Hatchie NWR) in Haywood County, Tennessee from 13 March through 18 March 2006 (Figure 1). The birds were identified by their individual color-coded leg bands. One bird was from the 2002 hatch year, male #216. He was a small chick, but has grown to become one of the largest males in the flock. The other bird was female #303, from the 2003 hatch year. She had a broken knee during her first year in the Wisconsin flock. A lot of her first migration south was in a crate, until she was healthy enough to be released in Illinois to accompany her class on the rest of the migration training flight to Florida. Her first northern migration in the spring of 2004 included a possible collision with a power line in North Carolina, and a detour while trying to figure out how to get around Lake Michigan.

These birds spent the summer and fall of 2005 together in Wisconsin and began their first migration south as a pair that November. They left Florida on their first northern migration as a pair on 6 March 2006. The Hatchie NWR staff were in the process of drawing water off flooded cornfields and moist soil units. The cranes roosted in the remaining water areas and spent the days loafing and feeding in the agricultural fields.

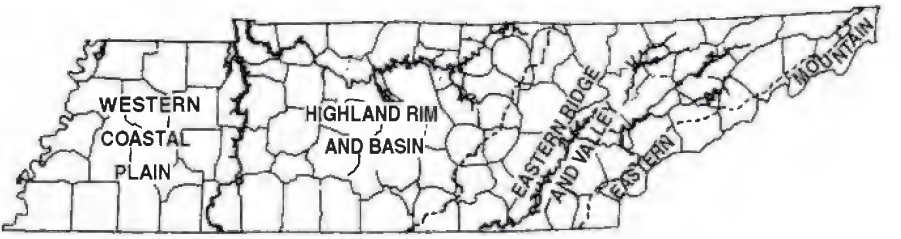
Although Whooping Cranes from the eastern flock have been regular transients in eastern Tennessee along their northward migration route (Hamilton County to Fentress County), these individuals at the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge represent the only recent occurrence in the western part of the state.

Figure 1. Two Whooping Cranes from the eastern flock observed on the Hillville Unit of the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge in Haywood County, Tennessee from 13 March through 18 March 2006.

The Migrant 77 (3): 97-108, 2006

THE SPRING SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2006

Migrants returning in April were welcomed by warmer than average temperatures. Otherwise, the spring weather was near normal, just a bit dry in some areas. Most observers reported good numbers of most species, at least by recent standards.

The season's birding can be reflected by the following bits and pieces. Waterfowl of note included Ross's Geese in the western region, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck and a late Surf Scoter in Middle Tennessee, a White-winged Scoter in upper East Tennessee, as well as Common Mergansers in the two eastern regions. Ten reports of Peregrine Falcons came from three regions as this former Endangered Species continues to recover. White-rumped Sandpipers made a good showing among several interesting shorebird reports. Barn Owls were reported from three regions. Flycatchers were featured prominently all across the state. Warblers attracted much attention, as usual. Particularly noteworthy among several rarities were Western Grebe, Gull-billed Tern and Varied Thrush.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide - reported by
Is - Island
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — This year's spring was dry in the region with near normal temperatures. A Varied Thrush, reported from Weakley

County, is the first for the region. Two Western Grebes and a Red-necked Grebe were observed at Pace Point, while two Glossy Ibises and a Tricolored Heron were seen at Chickasaw NWR. A Hudsonian Godwit was spotted at Ensley. Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were sighted at various sites in Shelby County. A Bell's Vireo returned to Lake County.

Goose - Falcon: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 16 Mar (50) Lake Co (MCT, DMa), lrs. **Ross's Goose**: 16 Mar (3) Black Bayou (MCT, DMa). **Northern Shoveler**: 14 May (3) Ensley (VBR), lrs. **Northern Pintail**: 7 May (1 male) Black Bayou (RLK), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 9 Mar (20) Pace Point (MCT); 26 Mar (1) Ensley (VBR). **Lesser Scaup**: 5 Mar (4000) Ensley (VBR), max. **Hooded Merganser**: 7 May (2 broods) Black Bayou (RLK); 21 May (5) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Red-necked Grebe**: 5 Mar (1) Pace Point (CAS, MJW). **WESTERN GREBE**: 5/9 Mar (2) Pace Point (CAS, MJW/MCT). **Anhinga**: 30 Mar (1) Loosahatchie Bottoms, Fayette Co (Roseanna Denton). **Great Egret**: 9 Mar (2) Crockett Co (MAG), ers. **Snowy Egret**: 1 Apr (1) Eagle Lake WMA (JRW), ers. **Tricolored Heron**: 21 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 31 Mar (2) Memphis (MCT, JRW), ers; 27 Apr (10) Obion Co (MCT), max. **Glossy Ibis**: 21 May (2) Chickasaw NWR (DDP, MTOS). **Osprey**: 9 Mar (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 2 May (1) S. Fork Obion R., Carroll Co (MCT, DMa); 13 May (168) Eagle Lake WMA (JRW), max. **Bald Eagle**: nesting reported in Lake & Shelby Cos. (NaM/JRW). **Peregrine Falcon**: 4 Mar - 1 Apr (1-2) downtown Memphis (JRW); 9 Mar (2) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT); 11 Apr (1) Lake Co (NaM); 13 May (1) Shelby Farms (MTOS).

Plover - Tern: **Black-bellied Plover**: 21 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Black-necked Stilt**: 11 Apr (4) Lake Co (NaM), ers there. **Willet**: 31 Apr (5) Ensley (JRW); 8 May (11) Reelfoot L (RLK). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: 23 Apr (1) Ensley (JRW). **Western Sandpiper**: 31 Mar - 1 Apr (1) Ensley (MCT, JRW); 23 Apr (9) Ensley (JRW). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 23 Apr (3) Ensley (JRW), ers. **Baird's Sandpiper**: 31 Mar/23 Apr (2) Ensley (JRW). **Dunlin**: 7 May (12) Lake Co (RLK); 14 May (18) Ensley (JRW); 21 May (45) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 23 Apr (3) Ensley (JRW). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 14 May (23) Ensley (JRW), max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 9 Mar (1) Britton Ford, Henry Co (MCT); 23 Apr (2) Ensley (JRW). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 13-14 May (3) Ensley (JRW). **Laughing Gull**: 11 Mar (1) Mud Is., Shelby Co (JRW); 17 Apr (21) Reelfoot L (MAG). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 7 May (3) Reelfoot L (RLK), lrs. **Herring Gull**: 17 Apr (1) Reelfoot L (MAG), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 17 Apr/27 Apr/7 May (1-3) Lake Co (MCT, DMa/MAG/RLK). **Common Tern**: 14 May (3) Mississippi R., Shelby Co (JRW). **Forster's Tern**: 9 Mar (12) Henry Co (MCT); 31 Mar (3) Robco L., Shelby Co (MCT, JRW); 7 May (2) Reelfoot L (RLK); 21 May (15) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Least Tern**: 16 Mar (2) Reelfoot L (NaM), ers; 21 May (45) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Black Tern**: 13 May (17) Shelby Forest (MTOS); 21 May (14) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS).

Cuckoo - Thrush: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 17 May (1) Bartlett, Shelby Co (JRW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 13 May (1) Eagle Lake WMA (DDP); 16 May (1) Mount

Orange, Gibson Co (MAG). **Alder Flycatcher**: 15 May (1) Mount Orange, Gibson Co (MAG). **Willow Flycatcher**: 13 May (1) Eagle Lake WMA (DDP). **Least Flycatcher**: 9 May (1) Obion Co (RLK); 13 May (2) Shelby Co (MTOS). **Western Kingbird**: 6 May thru season (pair) Ensley (JRW); 12/13 May (1) Eagle Lake WMA (VBR/DDP); 13 May (2) NW Memphis (JRW). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 6 May thru season (1) President's Is., Shelby Co (JRW); 11 May (1) E. Memphis (Jo Levy). **Bell's Vireo**: 27 Apr thru season (1) Black Bayou (NaM et al.), returned to nesting site; 14 May (1) Hwy 79, Lake Co (Kathie Holder). **Tree Swallow**: 5 Mar (2) Pace Point (CAS, MJW), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 8 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (Rob Peeples), record early for West Tenn. **House Wren**: 31 Mar (1) Shelby Co (MCT, JRW), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 21 May (2) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **VARIED THRUSH**: 2 Apr (1 male) 3.5 miles SW of Martin, Weakley Co (David Pitts), first for West Tenn.

Warbler - Finch: **Golden-winged Warbler**: 13 May (1) Shelby Forest (MTOS). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 29 Mar (1) Shelby Forest (VBR). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (Carolyn Bullock, Sue Ferguson, Barbara Wilson, Linda Zempel), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 17 Apr (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Obion Co (DMa, MCT). **Prairie Warbler**: 9 Apr (12) Henry Co (MCT). **Palm Warbler**: 13 May (3) Shelby Farms (MTOS), lrs. **Cerulean Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Obion Co (MCT). **Worm-eating Warbler**: 13 May (8) Shelby Forest (MTOS), max. **Swainson's Warbler**: 2 May (3) Henry Co (DMa, MCT); 9 May (1) Obion Co (RLK, NaM, Betty Sumara); 13 May (3) Shelby Forest (MTOS). **Northern Waterthrush**: 19 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (Carolyn Bullock, Sue Ferguson, Barbara Wilson, Linda Zempel), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 13 May (1) Shelby Forest (VBR). **Mourning Warbler**: 8 May (1) Lake Co (RLK). **Canada Warbler**: 2 May (1) Memphis (Gail King); 13 May (1) Shelby Forest (MTOS). **Lark Sparrow**: 2-3 May (4) Henry Co (MCT); 3 May (1) Weakley Co (MCT); 6-11 May (1-4) Gibson Co (MAG). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 27 Apr (1) Black Bayou (DMa, MCT); 21 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (DDP, MTOS), record late for state. **Indigo Bunting**: 8 Mar (1) Memphis (Amelia Johnson), unusually early. **Painted Bunting**: 16 May (2) NW Shelby Co (Gail King); 21 May (2) Chickasaw NWR (MTOS). **Purple Finch**: 10 Mar (3) Gibson Co (MAG).

Locations: Black Bayou - in Lake Co; Chickasaw NWR - in Lauderdale Co; Eagle Lake WMA - in Shelby Co; Ensley - in Shelby Co; Pace Point - in Henry Co; Reelfoot L. - in Lake & Obion Cos; Shelby Farms/Forest - in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — Weather during the three month spring season was mostly typical for middle Tennessee. While March and May had near normal temperatures, the mean value for April in the Nashville area was nearly 7 degrees above average. Precipitation for the period was near normal, although in March there was a deficit of 2 inches. In April and May a number

of frontal passages produced good birding opportunities, which were used to advantage in early May by birders attending the spring TOS meeting in Nashville. Although good numbers of Mourning Warblers were found during migration, Connecticut Warblers were hard to come by in the usual Nashville area hotspots this spring.

Duck - Hummingbird: **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**: late Apr - 19 May (1) Robertson Co (Mike Murdock, FJA, m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal**: 6 Apr (4) Shelby Park (PDC). **Northern Shoveler**: 16 May (4) Robertson Co (Mike Murdock, FJA et al.), lrs. **Surf Scoter**: 23 May (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), quite late. **Horned Grebe**: 15 Mar (405) Center Hill L., DeKalb Co (SJS), max. **American White Pelican**: 3 May (11) Duck R. Unit, Tenn. NWR, Humphreys Co (Richard Connors et al.); 31 May (24) Cheatham Co (Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson). **American Bittern**: 15 Apr (1) Heritage Marsh, White Co (SJS, DAD). **Cattle Egret**: 25 May (9) Davidson Co (JCo). **Bald Eagle**: 11 Mar (1 ad) Buffalo R., Perry Co (AV). **Northern Harrier**: 31 May (1 male) Bark Camp Barrens WMA, Coffee Co (Scott Somershoe). **American Golden-Plover**: 6 Apr (7) Putnam Co (NSL, SJS). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 6 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 25 May (5) Murfreesboro (TJW). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: thru May (2+) Hohenwald, Lewis Co (BP). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 6 May (1) Lewis Co (BP). **Barn Owl**: 12 Mar (2) Watertown, Wilson Co (Jan Donaldson). **Chuck-will's-widow**: 14 Apr (1/1) Hickman Co/Jackson Co (Marty DeHart/NSL), ers; 14 May (nest with 2 yg) Cedars of Lebanon State Forest, Wilson Co (Ken Oeser). **Whip-poor-will**: 1 Apr (1) Jackson Co (fide NSL), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 5 Apr (4) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 31 Mar (1) DeKalb Co (Tommy & Virginia Curtis), ers.

Flycatcher - Vireo: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 18 May (1) Murfreesboro (TJW, JCo); 27 May (1) Cheatham Co (Steve Routledge). **Acadian Flycatcher**: 13 Apr (1) Warner Park (RLa), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 14 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (TJW, JCo). **Willow Flycatcher**: 9 May (1) Murfreesboro (TJW), ers. **Least Flycatcher**: 6-16 May (1-2) Murfreesboro (TJW); 6-13 May (1) Lewis Co (BP). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 15 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Ginger Ensor), ers. **Eastern Kingbird**: 6 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 20 Apr thru season (2) Florence Rd., Murfreesboro (JCo, m.ob.); 20 Apr (2 pairs) Clifton, Wayne Co (Jason Mitchell fide AJT); 18 May thru season (2) Lytle Cr. Rd., Murfreesboro (JCo, TJW, m.ob.). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 18 Apr (1) Lewis Co (BP), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 28 Apr (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, JKS, Mike Smith), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 4 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers.

Swallow - Thrush: **Purple Martin**: 4 Mar (1) DeKalb Co (Thurman Seber fide CDW), ers. **Tree Swallow**: 1 Mar (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS, NSL, Bettie Doyle), ers. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 6 Mar (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), new early arrival date in Nashville area. **Cliff Swallow**: 20 Mar (3) Montgomery Co (Daniel Moss), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 20 Mar (1) Montgomery Co (Daniel Moss), ers. **Bewick's Wren**: 13 May (1) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Sedge Wren**: 8 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (SJS, CDW), first Co record. **Marsh Wren**: 14 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (TJW, JCo).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 29 Mar (16) Radnor L (FCF), max. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 28 Mar (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC, GBC), ers. **Veery**: 3 May (1) Warner Park (Sandy Bivens, RLa), ers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 8 May (1) Lewis Co (BP), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 19 Apr (1) Davidson Co (RLa, Jon Mann), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 14 Apr (6) Warner Park (RLa, Jon Mann), ers.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 5 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC, GBC, Mary Zimmerman), ers. **"Brewster's Warbler"**: 6-7 May (1) Radnor L (RLK, FCF, JKS, m.ob.). **Tennessee Warbler**: 16 Apr (1) Hickman Co (Marty DeHart), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF). **Nashville Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Beaman Park (Mike Smith), ers. **Yellow Warbler**: 14 Apr (2) Jackson Co (SJS), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (BHS), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 26 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (Tommy & Virginia Curtis), ers; 4-6 May (1) Lewis Co (BP). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 11 Apr/4 May (1/2) Lewis Co (BP). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 1 Apr (1/1) Radnor L/White Co (JKS/SJS), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Radnor L (KB), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 1 Apr (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Cookeville (Winston Walden), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 22 Apr (3) Cane Cr. Park (BHS), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 13 Apr/19 May (1/28) Putnam Co (SJS, Winston Walden), ers/max. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 1 Apr (1/1) Putnam Co/White Co (Michael O'Rourke/SJS, DAD), ers. **American Redstart**: 13 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (GBC), ers. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 11 Apr (6) Beaman Park (KB), ers. **Ovenbird**: 11 Apr (2) Beaman Park (KB), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 22 Apr (1) Putnam Co (BHS), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 10 Mar (1) Williamson Co (MJW), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Radnor L (KB), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 4 May (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (Richard Connors et al.); 12 May (1) Radnor L (FCF); 17 May (1) Lewis Co (BP); 24 May (1) Maury Co (Tommy Edwards); 27 May (1) Ellington Agriculture Center, Davidson Co (JKS). **Mourning Warbler**: 3 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), ers; 15/21 May (1) Lewis Co (BP); 17 May (4) Radnor L (FCF, PDC), max; 27 May (1) Ellington Agriculture Center, Davidson Co (JKS), lrs. **Common Yellowthroat**: 5 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 3 May (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), ers; 16-17 May (1) Lewis Co (BP). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: 14 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Michael O'Rourke), new early arrival date for Co.

Tanager - Bobolink: **Summer Tanager**: 7 Apr (1) Nashville (Jan Alexander), ties early arrival date in Nashville area. **Scarlet Tanager**: 1 Apr (1) Linden, Perry Co (AV), ers. **Lark Sparrow**: 20 May (1) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 20 May (1) near Columbia (Tommy Edwards). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 10 Apr (2) Cookeville (Michele Ramsey), new early arrival date for Co. **Dickcissel**: 22 May (4 males, 1 female) DeKalb Co (CDW, Judy Fuson, Michael Hawkins), first Co record since 1973. **Orchard Oriole**: 16 Apr (1) Shelby Bottoms (KB), ers. **Baltimore Oriole**: 12 Apr (1) Linden, Perry Co (AV), ers. **Bobolink**: 3 May (40+) Lawrence Co (Andrew Salhany), max.

Locations: Beaman Park - in Davidson Co; Cane Cr. Park - in Putnam Co; Narrows of the Harpeth SP - in Cheatham Co; Radnor L - in Davidson Co; Shelby

Park/Bottoms - in Davidson Co; Warner Park - in Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — This spring was warm and somewhat dry overall. While March and May had near average temperatures, April was considerably warmer than normal. The seasonal rainfall total was 2-3 inches deficient.

Bird numbers were good. Marsh birds were well represented, especially American Bittern and Sora with at least six reports each. Least Bittern and Virginia Rail nested again at Standifer Gap Marsh near Chattanooga. Twenty species of shorebirds were observed in the region. The number of Olive-sided Flycatcher and Mourning Warbler reports was impressive. Most incredible, however, was a Gull-billed Tern at Kingston Steam Plant; this was just the state's second record. Other regional rarities included Glossy Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt, Short-eared Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Henslow's Sparrow, and Harris's Sparrow. A single cormorant nest in Kingsport was new, but not unexpected, as the species has nested a few miles downstream in Hawkins County since 1992. With two pairs present all season in Knox County, Fish Crow has perhaps joined Common Raven as a rare breeder in the region.

Teal - Ibis: **Blue-winged Teal**: 21 May (2) Brainerd Levee (KAC); 28 May (7) Kingston Steam Plant (DJT); thru May into summer (1 male) Washington Co (RLK, DAH, m.ob.); all late. **Green-winged Teal**: thru May into summer (1 male) Washington Co (RLK, DAH, m.ob.), very late. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 13 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, John Henderson), lrs. **Common Merganser**: 7 Mar (2 males) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (NeM). **Ruffed Grouse**: 8 Apr (1, drumming) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Bert Harris). **Common Loon**: 22 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **American White Pelican**: 14 Mar (4) Meigs Co (Ray Zimmerman); 1 Apr (23, flying over) Knox Co (KDE). **Double-crested Cormorant**: 30 Mar thru season (1 occupied nest) Riverfront Park, Kingsport (RLK), new breeding site; 8 Apr (250) Ft. Loudoun Dam, Loudon Co (Carol Gobert), max; thru Apr - May (~ 50 nests) Holston Army Ammunition Plant, Hawkins Co (Bruce Cole fide JWC), longest existing colony in region; 29 Apr thru season (4 nests) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG et al.). **American Bittern**: 5 Mar (1) Jonesborough, Washington Co (James Brooks, Don Carrier - photo); 24 Mar (1) John Sevier L., Hawkins Co (Susan Hubley); 16 Apr/6 May (1) Greene Co (DHM); 17 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 23 Apr (3) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ); 30 Apr (1) Knox Co (DJT, Mike Nelson). **Least Bittern**: 14 Apr thru season (up to 10 active nests, first fledgling 21 May) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 13 May thru season (1-2) Kyker Bottoms (JJA, David Johnson et al.). **Snowy Egret**: 8 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, Jim Eager). **Little Blue Heron**: 18 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 13 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ); 21 May (1) Brainerd Levee (Mike Nelson, DRJ, KAC). **Cattle Egret**: 11 Mar (1)

Hamilton Co (Harold Sharp); 22 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 30 Mar thru season (8 nests at 2 sites) Kingsport (RLK, RAP); 7-8 May (1-2) Hamilton Co (KAC). **White Ibis**: 27 May (1) Hamilton Co (Kyle Waggener). **Glossy Ibis**: 2 May (6) Standifer Gap Marsh (DA, DEP).

Osprey - Crane: **Osprey**: 17 Mar (1) Knoxville (Tracey Muise), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 13 May (1) House Mtn., Knox Co (SHo, Martha Rudolph); 18 May (1) Tellico L., Monroe Co (Wes James). **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: thru May (1) Bristol (JWC). **Cooper's Hawk**: thru season (2 active nests, only about 200 yards apart) Kingsport (RAP). **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**: 1 Apr (1 ad) Kyker Bottoms (CMM, KTOS). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 14 May (1-2 yg in nest) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 28 Mar (1) Sevier Co (CMM), ers. **Merlin**: 28 Mar/1 Apr (1) Knox Co (KDE); 31 Mar (1) Kingsport (RAP); 23 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (KAC, CDB); 26 Apr (2) Washington Co (DAH); 23 May (1) Washington Co (Larry McDaniel), new late departure date in NE Tenn. **Peregrine Falcon**: 1 Apr (1) Knox Co (KDE); 18 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (AJT); thru season (nesting pair with 3 yg, of which 2 fledged) below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton Co (m.ob.). **Virginia Rail**: thru season (up to 6, plus a nest with 5 eggs on 21 May) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP). **Sora**: 14 Apr (7) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP), max; 16 Apr (2) Greene Co (DHM); 23 Apr (3) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ, CDB); 16 May (1) Kingsport (John Moyle); 17 May (1) Minga Marsh, Sullivan Co (RLK); 23 May (1) Austin Springs (TSM, RBB, Reece Jamerson); latter 3 reports all quite late. **Common Moorhen**: 13-29 May (1-2) Kyker Bottoms (June Welch, JJA et al.). **American Coot**: 27 May (5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), lrs. **Sandhill Crane**: 13 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ), very late.

Plover - Tern: **Black-bellied Plover**: 17 May (1) Brainerd Levee (Betty Wampler, Carol Fegarido, Jacob Job). **American Golden-Plover**: 2 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (David Spicer, Janice Chadwell); 3 Apr (3) Meigs Co (AJT). **Black-necked Stilt**: 29 Apr (1) Cumberland Co (Joseph & Anita Mast), first Co record & one of few in region. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 25 May (2) Limestone (RLK), lrs. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 23 May (2) Limestone (RLK), lrs. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 22 May (1) Limestone (RLK), lrs. **Willet**: 30 Apr (~ 75) Ft. Loudoun L., Knox Co (KDE). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 29 May (5 at 2 sites) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Least Sandpiper**: 21 May (81) Brainerd Levee (DRJ, KAC), max; 28 May (1) Limestone (DHM), new late date in NE Tenn. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 17-21 May (2-12) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ, m.ob.); 21-26 May (1-4) Washington Co farm ponds (FRC, RLK, m.ob.); 26/28 May (~ 50/30) Kingston Steam Plant (TJW/DJT). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 17-21 May (1-2) Brainerd Levee (Betty Wampler, Carol Fegarido, Jacob Job/KAC, DRJ, m.ob.), rare in spring. **Dunlin**: 7 May (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 13/21 May (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC/DRJ). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 16 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK et al.); 20 May (24) Washington Co (DAH, RBB, Diane Draper, RLK); 21 May (4) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ et al.). **Wilson's Snipe**: 5 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **American Woodcock**: 23 Apr (nest with 1 yg) Seven Is. Refuge (CMM et al.); 17 May (1) Kingsport (RLK). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 22 Apr (1)

Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **GULL-BILLED TERN**: 26-27 May (1 ad) Kingston Steam Plant (TJW, JCo), second state record. **Caspian Tern**: 22 Apr (3) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (TSM, Gary Wallace); 29 May (2) Kingston Steam Plant (Steve & Gail Clendenen). **Forster's Tern**: 11 Apr (4) John Sevier L., Hawkins Co (Susan Hubley); 13/19 Apr (3/2) Austin Springs (RLK); 20 Apr/13 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC/ Bob Edens, Danny Gaddy); 7 May (8) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE). **Black Tern**: 29 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), only report.

Cuckoo - Raven: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 15 May (1) Knox Co (FLB). **Barn Owl**: 3 May (1) Sullivan Co (Michelle Brown); 13 May (1) Kyker Bottoms (JJA, David Johnson, June Welch); 5/10 Apr (1) separate Greene Co sites (DHM); thru season (1) Johnson City (RLK et al.). **Great Horned Owl**: 3 Mar into Apr (2 yg in nest) Kingsport (Michelle Brown, m.ob.), using nest within Great Blue Heron rookery, herons returned to rookery but no active nests within 20 yards of owls. **Short-eared Owl**: from last period thru 8 Mar (3-4) Ninemile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (SJS, m.ob.); 5 Mar - 2 Apr (1-3) Bible Refuge, Greene Co (Ben Britton, m.ob.). **Rufous Hummingbird**: 29 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (Ellen Whitaker), lrs. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 14 May (1) Craven's House (KAC, CDB); 16/20-21 May (1) Knox Co (SHo), half mile apart, possibly separate birds; 27 May (1) Chuck Swan WMA, Union Co (DJT, AJT); 28 May (1) Knox Co (FLB). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 14 May (1) Knox Co (KDE); 18 May (1) Blount Co (JJA, Steve & Gail Clendenen, WB). **Alder Flycatcher**: 16 May (1) Knox Co (FLB). **Willow Flycatcher**: 21 May thru season (2) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 22 May thru season (1) Limestone (TSM, m.ob.); 28 May (3) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE et al.); all likely breeders. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 27 May (1) South Pittsburg, Marion Co (Dennis & Gwen Harris), has nested at this site in recent years. **Loggerhead Shrike**: reported from 4 -5 sites each in Greene & Washington Cos. (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireo**: 6 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (KAC), new early arrival date in SE Tenn. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 8 Mar (1) Fall Cr. Falls SP, Van Buren Co (SJS), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 16 Apr thru season, reported from Washington Co (8+ sites), plus one site each in Greene, Cocke, Jefferson, & Knox Cos. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 9 May (1) Greene Co (DHM); 13 May (1) Craven's House (Janice Chadwell). **Fish Crow**: 8 Mar thru season (2 pairs) Lyon's Bend, Knox Co (SHo, Marcia Davis); 13 May (1) Hamilton Co (Jim Eager, Gary Brunvoll); 22-28 May (1-2) Louisville, Blount Co (KDE). **Common Raven**: 5 Mar (2) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong); 27 Mar (2, apparently carrying food) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (RAP); 11/14 Apr (1) Watauga, Carter Co (RLK), at quarry where nested previously.

Swallow - Warbler: **Cliff Swallow**: 1 Apr (6) Austin Springs (RLK), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 7 Mar (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC); 23 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ); 5 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **Marsh Wren**: 15 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, DRJ); 16 Apr (2) Greene Co (DHM); 18 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (AJT); 23 Apr (2) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 24 Mar (1) Knoxville (Dan Mooney), ers. **American Robin**: 10 Mar (nest with 2+ large yg., 1 fledged next day) Knoxville (Jim Giocomo), early. **American Pipit**: 10 May (15) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **"Brewster's Warbler"**: 30 Apr/3 May (1) Cross Mtn., Campbell

Co (Tony Headrick, NeM). **Tennessee Warbler**: 7 Apr (1, banded) Hamilton Co (DA), ers. **Northern Parula**: 24 Mar (1) Knoxville (Dan Mooney), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 2 May (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Bert Harris); 8/13 May (1) Craven's House (KAC et al.). **Prairie Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Royal Blue WMA, Campbell Co (NeM), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 18 Apr (2) Craven's House (KAC), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Blount Co (CMM), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 8 Apr thru season (1-3) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); 14 Apr thru season (1-2) Austin Springs (RLK, m.ob.); 23 Apr (1) Kingsport (RAP); 14 May (32) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS), max. **Swainson's Warbler**: 16 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC, CDB), rare there; 20 May (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (FLB). **Northern Waterthrush**: 20 May (1) Knox Co (SHo), lrs. **Connecticut Warbler**: 16 May (1) Hamilton Co (Jacob Job); 21 May (1) Craven's House (KAC, DRJ et al.). **Mourning Warbler**: 12-13/21 May (1/2) Craven's House (DRJ, KAC et al.); 17 May (1) Kingsport (RLK); 18 May (1) Maryville, Blount Co (JJA, WB); 21-22 May (1) Lyon's Bend, Knox Co (SHo); 21 May (1) Eastern State WMA, Knox Co (FLB); 22 May (1) Johnson City (RLK). **Wilson's Warbler**: 5-20 May (4 reports) Knox Co (KTOS); 14 May (1) Cocke Co (DHM).

Sparrow - Siskin: **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 5 Apr (2) Seven Is. Refuge (Jim Giocomo), ers. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 22 May (1) Limestone (TSM et al.). **Fox Sparrow**: 5 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 3 May (1, banded) Hamilton Co (DA); 20 May (2) Seven Is. Refuge (CMM). **Swamp Sparrow**: 16 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **HARRIS'S SPARROW**: 22 Apr - 1 May (1) Bledsoe Co (Robin Sawvell, m.ob.); 29 May (1) Luttrel, Union Co (Steve & Rebecca Satterfield). **Blue Grosbeak**: 14 Apr (1) Washington Co (RLK), ties early arrival date in NE Tenn. **Dickcissel**: 5 May thru season (1-10+ at 4 sites) Limestone (RLK, DAH, TSM, m.ob.), one site occupied for 11th consecutive year; 27 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 11 Mar - 9 Apr (12-20) Greene Co (DHM, m.ob.). **Baltimore Oriole**: 14 May (13+) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS), max. **House Finch**: 12 Mar (nest with eggs) Kingsport (RAP), early. **Red Crossbill**: 14 May (2) Steele Cr. Park, Bristol (FRC, photo). **Pine Siskin**: 9/11 Apr (2+) Anderson Co (Charles Nicholson); 11 Apr (3) Kingsport (RAP); 14 Apr (4) Blount Co (CMM).

Locations: Austin Springs - in Washington Co; Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Craven's House - unit of Chattanooga & Chickamauga National Military Park in Hamilton Co; Kingston Steam Plant - in Roane Co; Kyker Bottoms - in Blount Co; Limestone - in Washington Co; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co; Seven Is. Refuge - in Knox Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - in Hamilton Co.

Addenda: the following were received too late to include in the report for Winter 2005-2006. **Snow Goose**: 4 Dec/15-21 Jan (2/5-6) Greene Co (DHM). **Greater Scaup**: 8 Jan (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Merlin**: 12 Feb (1) Greene Co (DHM). **House Wren**: 4 Dec/29 Jan (1) separate Greene Co sites (DHM). **Palm Warbler**: 8 Jan (2) Greene Co & 28 Jan (2) Cocke Co (DHM).

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Daily temperatures were slightly cooler than normal in March and May. However, April's daily temperatures averaged nearly 5 degrees warmer than usual. Precipitation was near normal for the period with April being the wettest month. Up to four Soras were heard calling in late May at Quarry Bog in Shady Valley. These persisted into the summer season. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nesting continues to be strong in Carter County.

Duck - Heron: **Green-winged Teal**: 19 Mar (16) near South Holston R., Sullivan Co (JWC), max. **Canvasback**: 18 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (FRC). **Redhead**: 10 Mar (37) Wilbur L., Carter Co (BKS et al.), max. **Greater Scaup**: 8 Apr (1) Middlebrook L., Sullivan Co (JWC). **White-winged Scoter**: 13 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (JWC, Larry McDaniel, Charlie Parker). **Bufflehead**: 13 May (1) Watauga R. (TSM), lrs. **Common Goldeneye**: 3 Mar (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB). **Hooded Merganser**: 6 Apr (3) Shady Valley (RLK), lrs. **Common Merganser**: from last perod thru 21 Mar (1-4) Middlebrook L., Sullivan Co (RLK et al.). **Red-breasted Merganser**: numerous reports, 21 Mar - 1 May (max 48 on 8 Apr) S. Holston L. (RLK, JWC, FRC, BKS et al.). **Ruddy Duck**: 1 Apr (11) S. Holston L. (JWC). **Northern Bobwhite**: 29 May (2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (TSM, RBB, BKS et al.). **Common Loon**: 1 May (10) S. Holston L. (RLK), lrs. **Eared Grebe**: 30 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), new late departure date. **American White Pelican**: 8 Apr (4) S. Holston L. (JWC, RLK, m.ob.), 5th record in NE Tenn. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 13 Apr (51) S. Holston L. (RLK), max. **Great Egret**: 28 Mar (1) Watauga R. (Brookie & Jean Potter). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 30 Mar (1 ad) Watauga R. (DAH, Dianne Draper). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 30 Mar thru season (8 occupied nests at 2 sites) Elizabethton (DAH, RLK, m.ob.).

Osprey - Sapsucker: **Osprey**: 4 Apr (1) S. Holston R. weir, Sullivan Co (BKS et al.), ers. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 2 Mar thru season (pair) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis), courtship flight observed; 2 Apr (1) Elizabethton (DAH); 2 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (RBB). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (RLK); 29 Apr (1) Watauga R. (Gary Wallace et al.); 27 May (2+) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (TJW). **Virginia Rail**: 6 Apr thru season (1-4) Quarry Bog (RLK, m.ob.). **Sora**: 26 May (3-4) Quarry Bog (TSM), new late date (see summer report). **American Coot**: 18 May (1) Quarry Bog (TSM), lrs. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 14 Apr (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (SHo); 18 May (2) Shady Valley (JML). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 18 May (6) Shady Valley (JML). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 18 May (10) Shady Valley (JML), first record there. **American Woodcock**: 4 Mar (1) Gregory Bald, GSMNP (Charles Nicholson); 27 Mar (nest with 4 eggs) near Twin Cr. Natural Resources Center, GSMNP (Kristine Johnson); 15 Apr (1) Whigg Meadow, Monroe Co (CMM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 8 Apr (220) S. Holston L. (JWC, RLK), max. **Herring Gull**: 30 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 18-29 Apr (1-10) S. Holston L. (BKS, JWC, RLK, m.ob.). **Common Tern**: 22 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (RLK et al.). **Forster's Tern**: 22 Apr - 1 May (1-3) S. Holston L. (RLK, JWC et al.). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 4-31 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (RLK, m.ob.). **Barn Owl**: 22 Apr (1) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 8 Apr thru season (1) Roan

Mtn (TSM et al.). **Whip-poor-will**: 6 May (19) Round Knob, Greene Co (DHM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 29 Apr (1) Shady Valley (JWC), late migrant?

Flycatcher - Siskin: **Acadian Flycatcher**: 10 Apr (1) GSMNP (CMM), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 24 / 29 May (2 / 5) Roan Mtn (RLK / RBB), ers / max. **Willow Flycatcher**: 18 May (7) Shady Valley (TSM), max. **Least Flycatcher**: 15 Apr (1) Roan Mtn (RLK), new early arrival date for NE Tenn. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 11 Mar (1) Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (Tom Howe), ers. **Cliff Swallow**: 21 May (10+ nests) Bailey Bridge, Erwin, Unicoi Co (RLK), first nesting record in Co. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 31 Mar (1) Carter Co (BKS), ers. **American Pipit**: 11 Mar (50+) Elizabethton (BKS). **Blue-winged Warbler**: 29 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (TSM, RBB et al.), only report & late. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 2 May (9) Hampton Cr. Cove (RBB), max. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 29 Mar (2) Tremont, GSMNP (CMM), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), new early arrival date in NE Tenn. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 3 May (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (RLK), rare in Mountain region. **Swainson's Warbler**: 20 / 29 Apr (1 / 2) Shady Valley (RLK / JWC); 22 Apr (2) Bald Mtn., Greene Co (DHM); 25 Apr / 27 May (2) Schoolhouse Gap trail, GSMNP (CMM / TJW); 29 Apr (1) Miller L., Carter Co (FJA); 3 / 5 May (1) Buffalo Mtn., Washington Co (DAH); 5 May (1) Clark's Cr., Washington Co (DAH). **Common Yellowthroat**: 3 Apr (1) Milligan College, Carter Co (Gary Wallace), ers **Swamp Sparrow**: 18 May (1) Shady Valley (TSM), lrs. **Bobolink**: 18 May (1) Shady Valley (TSM), lrs. **Red Crossbill**: 1 / 11 Mar (13 / 4+) Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (WB / Tom Howe); 12 Mar (2) Cades Cove, GSMNP (SHo et al.). **Pine Siskin**: 18 Mar / 28 Apr (2-3) Hampton, Carter Co (BKS); 15 Apr thru season (4 -15+) Roan Mtn (RLK et al.).

Locations: Hampton Cr. Cove - in Carter Co; Quarry Bog - in Shady Valley, Johnson Co; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co; S. Holston L. - in Sullivan Co; Watauga R. - in Carter Co.

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